



Check Us Out

Your Link to the Past & Gateway to the Future

LIBRARY TO HOST NATIONAL BOOK LAUNCH FOR "DEAR MISS BREED"

Who was Clara Estelle Breed? Not only was she an extraordinary Librarian and human being, but she was a member of the San Diego Public Library staff for 42 years, serving as our first Children's Librarian then as City Librarian for 25 years from 1945 to 1970. Miss Breed, who passed away in 1994, deserves much of the credit for the building of the Central Library in 1954.



Dear Miss Breed, written for young adult readers, focuses on an important chapter in the life of this remarkable woman. It tells the story of how Clara Breed, a quiet hero, helped Japanese-American children, whom she knew and loved as library patrons, survive incarceration in internment camps during World War II by sending books and writing letters to them. She gave them hope when their world was turned upside down. Miss Breed did even more by writing

articles speaking out against this injustice, a position not popular during wartime. During the war, Miss Breed received 250 letters from "her children" that she cherished and saved, and later given to Elizabeth Yamada, a former internee who donated them to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

San Diego Public Library has been selected for the national debut of *Dear Miss Breed* on February 23-24, 2006. Author Joanne Oppenheim will be in San Diego for two days to celebrate the publication of a story that is important to both San Diego and the San Diego Public Library. *Dear Miss Breed* came about when she began looking for a Japanese-American childhood friend online. She found her classmate and also a story that needed to be told.



For more information about *Dear Miss Breed*, visit www.dearmissbreed.com.

The Library is hosting the following events with Ms. Joanne Oppenheim to celebrate the launch of Dear Miss Breed:

High school students presentations:

Thursday, February 23rd, 10:00AM, Central Library

Friday, February 24th, Torrey Pines High School, 10:30AM

Author Presentation, Reception & Book Signing:

Thursday, February 23rd, 6:00PM at Central Library.

RSVP for the Reception: (619) 238-6681

Exhibits: February 23 - March 30, Central Library



Ms. Oppenheim

For more information about upcoming library events, visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library> and sign-up for Library Connection, the library's monthly online newsletter.



A Message from the Director

Anna Tatár, Director, San Diego Public Library

Dear Friends,

2006 promises to be an exciting year for the San Diego Public Library. The photos on page 3 of this issue of *Check Us Out* tells the big story – the Library will grow dramatically in 2006. A record number of branches are currently under construction or in the process of being renovated. Once completed, each site will bring expanded collections, new technology and enriched programming to the communities they serve.

Our newest branch, College-Rolando, which opened in September, continues to flourish as 5,000 patrons per month make use of computers and wireless Internet access and attend a wide variety of library programs. Adding to the excitement, the new main library project is rapidly gaining momentum. With a beautiful design completed, cost estimates in hand and the site ready to be cleared, we eagerly await each step forward in the process of fulfilling our 30-year dream of building a new main library. As Library Commissioner, Mel Katz so aptly points out in his article on page 6, the time is ripe to break ground on the new main.

The Library is honored to be selected for the national book launch of *Dear Miss Breed*, the inspirational story of our first children's librarian, Clara Breed and her ongoing correspondence with young Japanese American library patrons who were housed in internment camps during World War II. Please join me in welcoming the author of *Dear Miss Breed*, Joanne Oppenheim for a special presentation of her book on Thursday, February 23, 2006 at 6:00PM at the Central Library.

Despite the financial challenges currently facing the City and resulting cuts to the library budget, our dedicated library staff continues to provide the highest level of service to our patrons. The library staff's "can-do spirit" is truly an inspiration. Now more than ever, the Library depends on the continued support from patrons like you to grow and sustain library services and collections. Please join me in making 2006 the Year of the Library.

Sincerely,

Anna Tatár

Anna Tatár

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY



Check Us Out

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The Library subscribes to the Association of Fundraising Professional's Donor Bill of Rights and is committed to maximizing the effectiveness of donor contributions. A copy of the Library's latest financial report is available by request.

News and Upcoming Events

For more Library news and information, call or stop by your local library or visit the Library on the City's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

Also, subscribe to *Library Connection*, the monthly online newsletter with lots of information on upcoming events: www.sandiego.gov/public-library/news-events/newsletter.shtml.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

Featured at Great American Writers Series

Goodwin Discusses Newest book - "Team of Rivals"

As part of the Great American Writers Series, a standout crowd of 150 guests gathered at Petco Park on Saturday, December 3, 2005 to hear Pulitzer Prize winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin discuss her highly acclaimed new book, "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln".

Attendees had a chance to meet Doris Kearns Goodwin and obtain personally signed copies of her book. The event was presented by the San Diego Public Library, The City Club of San Diego and UCSD. The ongoing Great American Writers Series features a wide genre of American writing – fiction, non-fiction and journalism.



Goodwin won the Pulitzer Prize in history for "No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II". She is also the author of the bestsellers "Wait Till Next Year," "The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys," and "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream." Ms. Goodwin serves as an NBC-TV news analyst and lectures around the world.



For further information about the Great American Writers Series and upcoming library events, visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library> and sign-up for Library Connection, the library's monthly online newsletter.



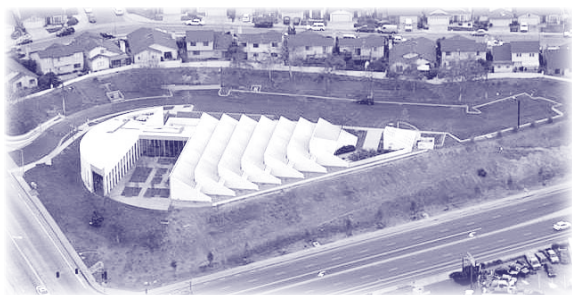
STAFF IN THE NEWS - VALERIE HARDIE

Val has been with READ/San Diego since its inception in 1988 and was appointed Literacy Program Administrator in August 2005. As director of READ/ San Diego, Hardie oversees the San Diego Public Library system's

innovative literacy program, which has been nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. READ is acclaimed for its successful strategies to improve language skills among the estimated 422,000 adults in San Diego County who cannot read and write well enough to get along in the business world—or even meet their own daily needs. San Diego Magazine recently name Val as one of 50 San Diegans to Watch in 2006.

21st Century Library Improvement Projects

New and Expanded Library Facilities Underway in 2006



Aerial photo of Otay Mesa- Nestor Branch, courtesy of Manny Ramirez

The current 10,000-square-foot Otay Mesa/Nestor Branch Library will be expanded by 5,000 square feet, providing expanded meeting and conference space, a computer lab, and additional space for growing collections. The project will also include the repair/replacement of major building systems in the original part of the building. The \$3 million renovation project is targeted for completion this spring.

A new 15,250-square-foot library will be built for the Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa communities. The new branch will provide patrons with a computer lab, meeting space, and a large collection of library materials. Designed by Coombs Architecture & Planning Inc., the structure will be distinctive in appearance and will be created to be in harmony with its surroundings. The building will include green building technology and recycled materials. Per the community's request, the design borrows on the mission revival and craftsman styles.



Rendering of Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Branch



Rendering of North University Community Branch

Together, the prominent architectural team Platt/Whitelaw Architects Inc. and Fields Devereaux have created a dynamic and functional design reflecting the community's unique heritage and identity. The North University Community Branch Library is located at the City-owned Nobel Athletic Park. The structural design and appearance of the building blend beautifully with the park setting and the surrounding residential neighborhood. Reading areas will overlook the park, the canyon, and the neighborhood. Both the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa and North University Community Branch libraries are scheduled to open this fall.

Construction also recently began on the parking lot for the new Logan Heights Branch, a 26,000-square-foot mega-branch that will operate in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District and the neighboring elementary and middle schools. The building's architecture, itself the result of three years' of community meetings and input, will express the history of the community in a modern way. Plans call for ground to be broken for the new building later this year.



Rendering of Logan Heights Branch

Please see the feature story on page 6 for the latest news on the New Main Library.

For more information about how you can get involved in supporting the construction and renovation of these library facilities, please contact Jay Hill, Director of Development, at (619) 236-5861 or email: jayhill@sandiego.gov.

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The San Diego Public Library would like to thank the following contributors who made gifts of \$100 or more to support the library in November and December 2005.

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THE YEAR OF THE NEW MAIN LIBRARY

With property in hand and a pledge to not use city general funds, the time to break ground is now.

By Mel Katz



Mel Katz is chairman of the San Diego Public Library Commission, a director of the San Diego Public Library Foundation and co-owner of Manpower.

What a wonderful time for the city of San Diego to finally realize its goal of building a new main library. Once finished, it will anchor and enhance the entire public library system along with Downtown redevelopment. San Diegans should make a collective New Year's resolution to start construction this year.

Why now? After almost 30 years, we have never been in a better position to realize this dream. We have the land, which is being cleared, we have a great design and completed working drawings, and we have 56 percent of the construction costs in hand. Yes, it will cost \$185 million to build, but those funds will come from private philanthropists, dedicated redevelopment funds and the state. Not one cent will come from the city's general fund, or existing or new bond obligations.

Yes, operating and maintenance costs will increase. Today, the annual cost to run the sorely outdated, inadequate central library at Eighth Avenue and E Street is \$7.6 million, projected to rise to \$8.7 million in 2009. Running the new main library in 2009 will cost \$11 million a year, with the \$2.3 million difference completely covered by new revenue. The new funds include, but are not limited to, lease of the 77,000 square feet on the sixth and seventh floors, parking fees (the first two hours are free), a bookstore and café, and rental of spaces such as the auditorium and courtyard.

Does Anyone Go There? Some people think libraries are dinosaurs when nothing could be further from the truth. People love their libraries. In 2004, the city's

public libraries had 6.5 million visits – more than the total number of visitors to SeaWorld and the San Diego Zoo combined – with 770,000 of those visits to the Downtown central library. Downtown is one the region's fastest-growing residential areas with nearly 30,000 residents and a population expected to triple by 2020. Its residents deserve, and will use, a first-class library.

Why Have A Main At All? Across the United States, main libraries are arts and culture centers that far surpass individual branches. They host musical performances, readings, art and other exhibits. Branches — which everyone supports — are only as good as their mains. Knowledge is best managed around a hub or central library. Centralization is essential for larger collections and research activities, and Downtown is the best place for that, being the unarguable center of commerce and government. And, critically for public access, they need to be in areas of high activity, convenient to public transit.

Isn't The Internet The Answer? Many people say we don't need libraries when we have the Internet. Here's what you can access on the Internet: only one-half of one percent of 110 million Library of Congress items, 8 percent of journals, very little material that is more than 15 years old and almost no books. More than 68,000 books are published in the United States alone each year, yet only about 17,000 books have been digitized by Project Gutenberg. Modern libraries are hybrids, blending the best of analog and digital worlds. Consider this — more people learn how to use the Internet at libraries than anywhere else. For those without access at work, school or home, libraries are the primary place to access the Internet.

The Year Of The Library The most compelling arguments against this project are one-sided and relatively easy to counter. Why? Because we have been working on this, in all sorts of city contexts, for a long time. That is why the City Council unanimously approved the overall public library plan to improve or build 23 branch libraries and the new main, and approved the finance plan. It is why Mayor Sanders has voiced his support. Together, we can make 2006 the year of the library. Let's do it — to help restore San Diego's civic pride and benefit citizens of all stripes in the name of literacy and lifelong learning.

10th Annual Winter Read-a-Thon Celebration

On Saturday, December 10, 2005, a very successful 10th Annual Winter Read-a-Thon Celebration & party drew a crowd of 70 children & 40 adults at the Beckwourth Branch. Local teens decorated the meeting room with balloons, bright streamers and ribbons. Nancy Saint John provided holiday tunes & tales. A total of 116 children signed up for the program and 47 children read five books over the holidays.



Beadmaking Workshops a Hit at Oak Park Branch

The Bead Society of San Diego County presented a free series of bead-making classes for children and teens at the Oak Park Branch. The Bead Society of San Diego will present an adult beading class at the Oak Park Library on Saturday, February 11, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. Reservations are required: please call the Oak Park Library at 619-527-3406.



Holiday Gingerbread Houses a Hit at Mira Mesa Branch

On December 14, 2005, Youth Services Librarian Teresita Flores and Library Assistant Connie Biddle conducted a children's program at the Mira Mesa Branch on how to build a Gingerbread House. The program was well-attended by a group of delighted children and their parents.

Robin Bright Art Exhibit Draws Accolades

A recent show of artist Robin Bright's work at the Taylor /Pacific Beach Branch Library was rated by the Union Tribune as one of San Diego's ten best art shows in 2005. The "Best of 2005" designation is especially meaningful as the other awardees were all major arts institutions. Congratulations to Mark-Elliott Lugo, Curator of the Library's Visual Art Program for an outstanding job in putting together this exhibit.

San Carlos Branch Celebrates Chinese New Year

Sandra Foster and her son, Joel were among the patrons who celebrated Chinese New Year at the San Carlos Branch by making spring action dragon puppets and reading books about dragons. Sandra read her son Michael Hague's *The Book of Dragons*.



DOUBLE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIBRARY THROUGH A CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT

Many local and national companies offer corporate matching gift programs to their current employees and company retirees. Many of these companies will match your gift dollar for dollar. Below is a partial list of the companies in the San Diego area that offer matching gifts. Contact your company's Human Resources department or the Library's Development Office at (619) 238-6638 for more information.

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MALCOLM X BRANCH *10th Anniversary Celebration*

Saturday, January 21, 2006 marked the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the opening of the Malcolm X Branch. A huge crowd of library supporters and elected officials joined with the community at an afternoon celebration that included storytelling, a magic show, ethnic dancing and a youth poetry reading. Special thanks goes to Joan Conlisse, Chair of the 10th Anniversary Celebration and her committee for organizing this wonderful celebration. Pictured above: Marayah Leslie, Faustine Wilson, Ella Momon, Joshua Von Wolfolk and Delia Morris were among those who joined in the festivities at Malcolm X.

BARRIO LOGAN YOUTH CELEBRATE COMMUNITY PRIDE

“BARRIO LOGAN: Youth Voices & Community Stories” is a one-year digital storytelling project that will help sustain, support, celebrate and maintain community identity and pride in an area that is widely regarded as a spiritual center for Latino civic engagement. As part of the “BARRIO LOGAN: Youth Voices – Community Stories” project, two documentary videos produced by local youth debuted at the Central Library in December. The documentaries, entitled “Employment” and “Community Organizing” were produced by young people living in Barrio Logan and Oak Park.



“BARRIO LOGAN: Youth Voices – Community Stories” is a joint program of the Library and Media Arts Center San Diego’s Teen Producers Project. Co-sponsoring the project are the MAAC Project, High Tech High School, Barrio Logan College Institute, Memorial Academy Charter School and National Latino Research Center. Funding for the project comes from a California State Library grant through the Library Services and Technology Act.